

Synonyms and Related Phrases



In the following sentences, replace the underlined vocabulary word with a synonym or phrase that means the same thing. Rewrite the sentence with the new word or phrase.

The government of the United States is a democracy.

The government of the United States is run by the people.

When laws are repealed when a government finds that the laws are no longer useful.

After many hours of debate, the U.S. Congress ratified the treaty.

I could not believe that just one artist made that massive statue.

5. It is important to reach a compromise when making group decisions.

6. The military knew that surrender would mean the end of the war.

7. People were calling for an amendment to the state constitution.

8. The actress looked elegant in her floor-length gown.

Education and Local Government Meeting
April 11, 2014

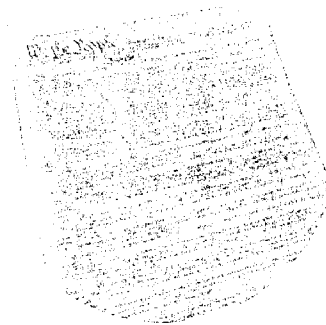
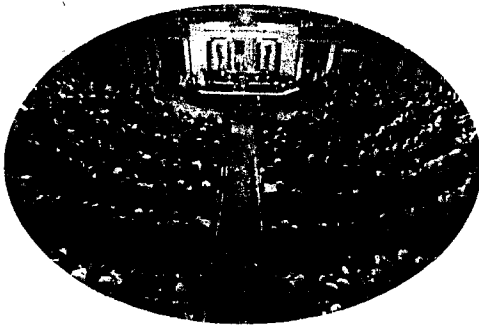
Think Ahead

Selection 4



Focus Question: How has our government adapted to changes throughout history?

Think about these issues: *individuals' rights*, *protection from discrimination*, *changing the Constitution*, and *changing laws*. How has the American government adapted as a result of these issues? Write your ideas.



Individual's Rights

Protection from Discrimination

Changing the Constitution

Changing Laws

Vocabulary Strategy

he meaning of the **bold** words in each
. For each word, use a dictionary to

ontemplate, or think about, his decision

My definition: _____

Dictionary Definition: _____

2. The young voters were **zealous** in working for their candidate, unlike the supporters of the other candidate, who were unenthusiastic.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

3. The city government is responsible for **municipal** activities, such as keeping the city streets clean and hosting citywide events.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

4. Some of the most successful legislators are those who are **flexible**. They can adapt and change to get things done.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____

5. Voters considered some ideas **extravagant**, such as the wasteful spending of money on 50 snow plows. After all, this city was in the south and had very little snowfall.

My definition: _____

Dictionary definition: _____



Think Ahead

Selection 2

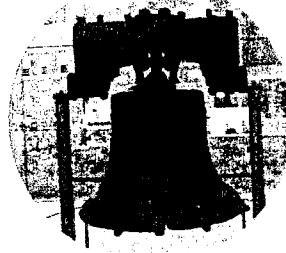


Focus Question: Why would people want to form a government?

Think about these principles: *justice*, *freedom*, and *equality*. How might wanting to live with these principles inspire people to form a new government? Write your ideas below.



Justice



Freedom

Equality

Applying Test-Taking Strategies

Read each item carefully. Note any items you are unsure about and return to them after checking the text. Check the page or pages given from *A Government of, by, and for the People* for help in deciding which answer choice is correct.

1. Which statement represents the views of Federalists in the late 1700s?
 - (A) We should keep the Articles of Confederation.
 - (B) We need a strong national government.
 - (C) We want the states to make their own laws.
 - (D) We prefer a king instead of a President.(page 396)

2. Which of the following statements is an opinion?
 - (A) The Constitution should give less power to the federal government.
 - (B) The Constitution has endured for more than 200 years.
 - (C) Delaware was the first state to ratify the Constitution in 1787.
 - (D) The articles of the Constitution describe how state and federal governments work together.(pages 396–398)

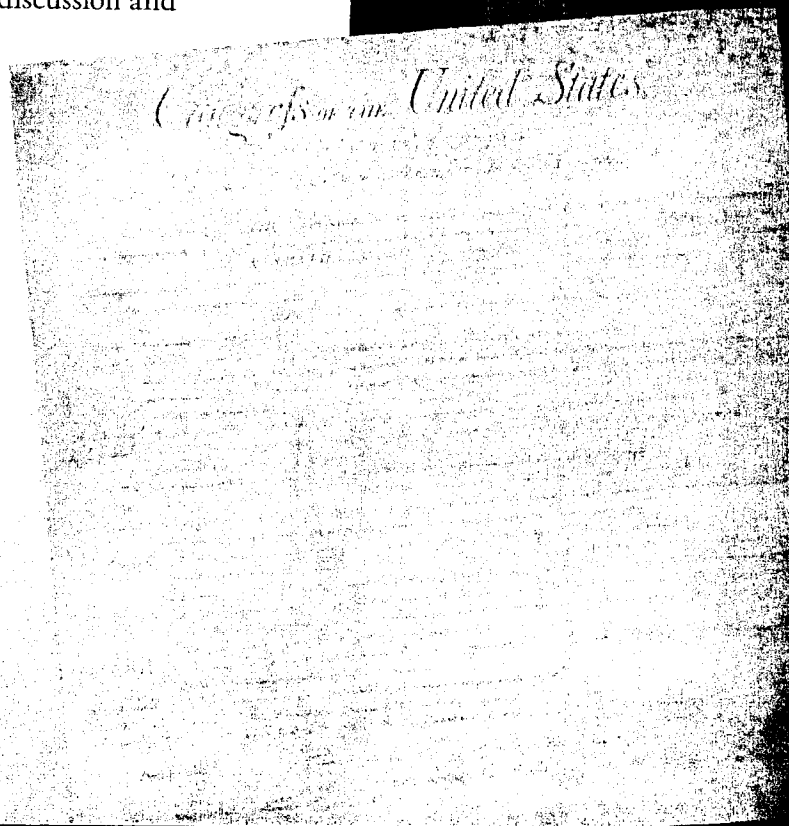
3. Which statement is NOT true of the Bill of Rights?
 - (A) It is the first ten amendments to the Constitution.
 - (B) It was the result of James Madison's proposals and his ideas about individual rights.
 - (C) It was created as a reaction to the treatment of the colonists by the British during the Revolutionary War.
 - (D) It abolished slavery and gave women the right to vote.(pages 400–401)

4. Which statement describes the contributions of Thurgood Marshall?
 - (A) He fought for women's suffrage and helped pass the 19th Amendment.
 - (B) He signed the Fair Labor Standards Act in the 1930s.
 - (C) He decided the *Plessy v. Ferguson* case as a Supreme Court Justice.
 - (D) He proved "separate but equal" laws were a form of discrimination.(pages 405–409)

A Document for Change

The Constitution was written more than 200 years ago. Since then dramatic changes have occurred in the United States. Changes occurred that could not have even been imagined by the citizens who wrote the document that is still the foundation of our laws in this country.

The Framers knew that the government needed to change in response to the people. They decided that the Constitution should be amended, if the people wanted it to be changed. Despite the long hours of discussion and **compromise** that went into writing the Constitution, some people were still unhappy with it.



sentence?

for the
view
of the
ence.
nited
and the Bill of Rights.

The Anti-Federalists thought the document gave too much power to the national government at the expense of state governments. The Bill of Rights that protects our individual liberties today grew out of the dissatisfaction expressed by the Anti-Federalists.

Article V within the Constitution explains the amendment process. A bill suggesting an amendment is proposed in Congress, which then must approve it by a two-thirds majority. Then the bill is sent to the states for approval. Three-fourths of the states must ratify the amendment for it to be constitutional.

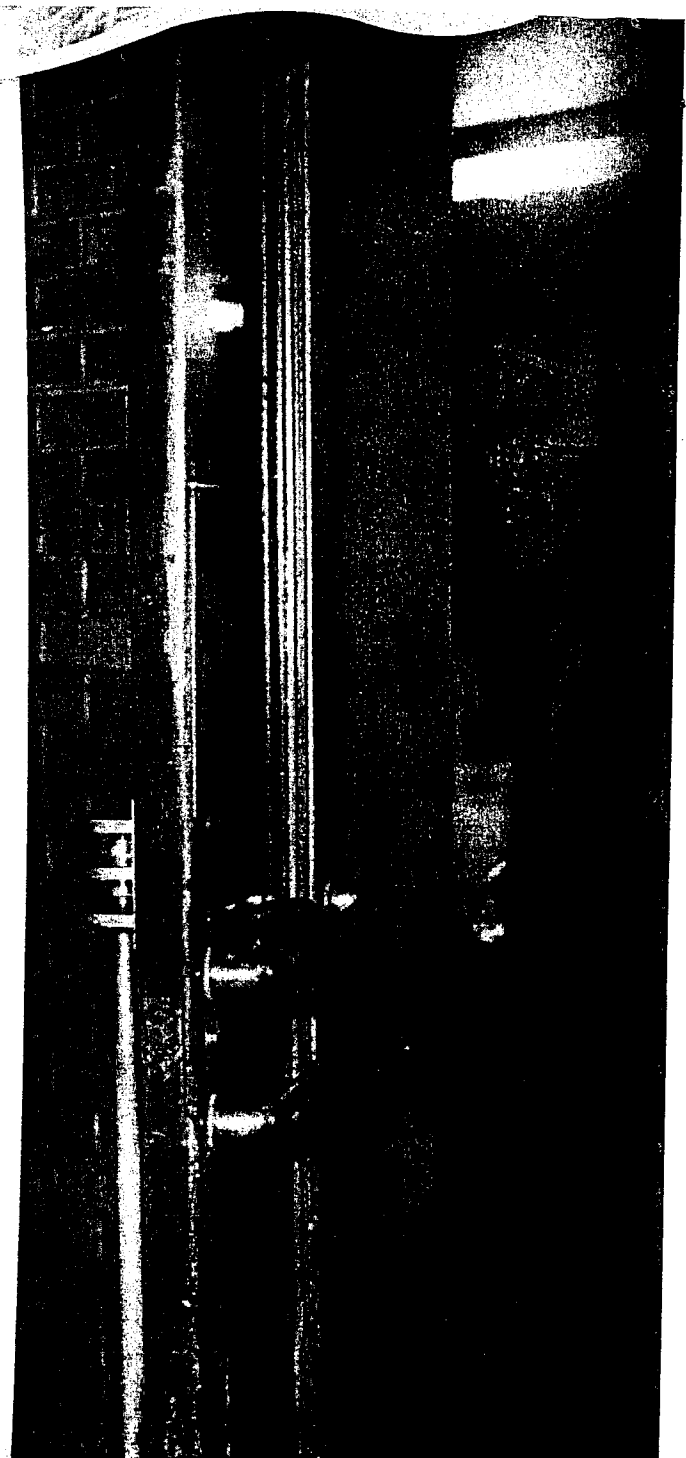
Each amendment was ratified for a reason. Amendments have explained rights of individuals, defined citizenship, and even changed how the President and Vice President are elected. To date the Constitution has 27 amendments, and only one—the Eighteenth Amendment—has been **repealed**.

Changing the Constitution by amending it is not an easy process. The process was made to take time so people could consider the effects of the proposed change. Our Constitution has been called a “living document.” It changes as our country and its people change. The original writers of this document, which ensures our freedoms and lists our duties as citizens, wrote it with change in mind.

Change through Interpretation

People sometimes use the Constitution to create change in America without passing an amendment. Because amending the Constitution requires the approval of three-fourths of the states, it can take a long time. People often appeal to the judicial branch of the government to effect change. The Supreme Court of the United States is the ultimate decider of the meaning of our laws. The justices can decide on whether a law contradicts the Constitution or is supported by it. In effect the Supreme Court interprets the Constitution for our citizens. Sometimes the interpretation changes over time.

For example, in 1896, the Supreme Court decided the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. The Court declared that it was constitutional to have separate facilities for African Americans if the facilities were equal to the ones that white people used. At that time the idea of "separate but equal" generally required African Americans to use different drinking fountains, building entrances, schools, and more. It took almost 60 years for the Supreme Court to change this decision.



This photo, taken before the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law, shows how segregation was instituted under the policy of "separate but equal."

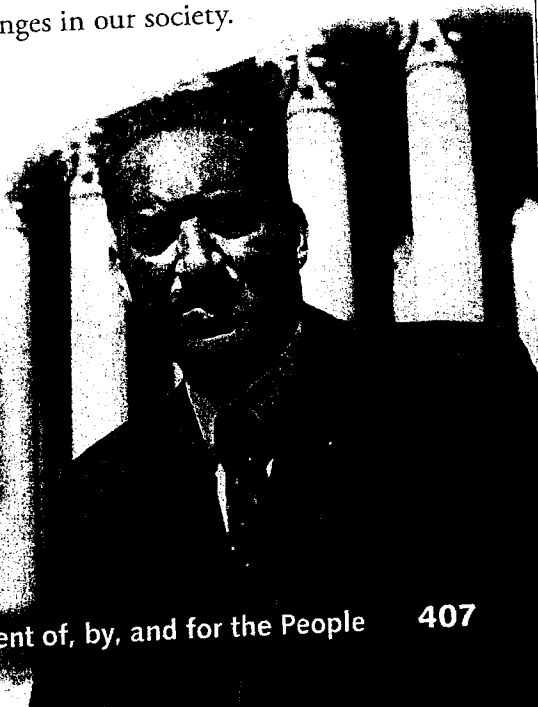
Thurgood Marshall Argues for Equality

Thurgood Marshall, a lawyer, asked the Supreme Court to look at the Fourteenth Amendment again. He wanted the Court to understand why separate was not equal.

Marshall argued the 1954 Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*. In this case, Marshall showed that the African American schools were not as good as, or equal to, the all-white schools. He argued that this was a violation of the promise of equal protection given to all people by the Fourteenth Amendment.

The Supreme Court agreed with Marshall. Even though this case was about schools, it affected many other areas of American life. The Court's decision meant that **discrimination** was illegal. Marshall's argument helped strengthen the rights of all Americans, not just African Americans. It showed how rights named in the Constitution could be extended based on changes in our society.

In 1967 Thurgood Marshall (1908–1993) became the first African American member of the Supreme Court.



Securing Basic Liberties

The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights protects the basic rights of U.S. citizens. Some of the amendments were created in response to the way the colonists were treated during the Revolutionary War. The Bill of Rights guarantees, for example, that people

- have freedom of speech;
- are protected against unlawful searches;
- do not have to let soldiers live in their homes;
- have the right to a speedy and fair trial if they are accused of a crime;
- cannot be punished in ways that are cruel or unusual;
- can assemble peacefully;
- can petition the government; that is, can ask the government to change something.

People often assemble or participate in protests and demonstrations to bring attention to an important issue.

